

HMM-364 "THE WORLD FAMOUS PURPLE FOXES"



FOX NEWS



Marines

The Few. The Proud.



May / June 2005

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From the Commanding Officer

Purple Fox Families,

The month of May is now behind us and with it's passing, the Purple Foxes are now past the half way point of the deployment. The squadron is continuing to perform in an exemplary manner and as we enter month four, the Purple Foxes have had to adapt to a few changes in our mission. As our ground brethren maintain pressure on the insurgents, American and Iraqi casualties have continued to decrease. As a result, Marine Aircraft Group 26, the 2d Marine Expeditionary Force and the Multi-National Forces have tasked HMM-364 to conduct additional missions. To make this happen, an Army Medical Evacuation Squadron moved some assets to our flight line and integrated the casualty evacuation mission with us. Over the past month our Army brethren have moved in right next door to us here at TQ and after some training sessions, tactics discussions and integrated flights they have assumed a portion of the casualty evacuation mission. We still maintain some of the casualty evacuation mission, but the integration of the 571st allows us to support II MEF throughout the Al Anbar by conducting additional missions common to an HMM squadron. The insurgents are now left to wonder: "Are the 'Purple Foxes' here to remove someone from harms way or are they bringing someone to harm our way?" The Foxes have enjoyed this change of pace and the integration of missions, Marines, and Soldiers has been a success due to your Marines professionalism and diligence

On the home front, the Key Volunteer Network is busy making preparations for the family day on June 18th. It will be at the peninsula aboard Camp Pendleton and it promises to be an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship. Make sure to check your e-mail and mail box in the next few weeks for more details. Additionally, if you have any questions about services aboard Camp Pendleton or in the local area call or e-mail your Key Volunteer. The KVN remains a group of dedi-

cated Purple Fox spouses that volunteer their time to pass information via phone and e-mail from myself to all the families. Additionally, they serve as a resource for the individual spouse. If they can't answer your question, they will direct you to a Camp Pendleton agency or service that can. For more information on the Key Volunteer Network or if you are interested in becoming a Key Volunteer, contact my Key Volunteer Coordinators.

In conclusion, I would like to address the subject of return and leave. At this point in time all I know is that everyone will be home by the middle of September. I am planning on sending an advanced party and hoping I can keep it similar in size to the advanced party coming out. That being said, I am still required to continue supporting our missions and can not afford to send Marines home until I receive a suitable replacement from the incoming squadron. Therefore, I do not know who or how many will be on the advanced party. My intent still holds true, those who came out advanced party, have right of first refusal for returning advanced party. The main body is also up in the air. There are options being discussed that would have the main body returning as it departed, in one big movement. Other options call for splitting it into several groups. As a result of not knowing when everyone is getting back, I can not determine when and for how long we will be able to go on leave. It could be as soon as we touch down at Camp Pendleton or it may be as late as October when everyone is back and we have all our aircraft. However, you can count on a 96 (four days off) for the Marines within the first week of our return and then all hands will have the opportunity to take two weeks of leave once we are settled in at Camp Pendleton. I will contact all of you through the Key Volunteer Net work as soon as I know anything more definitive. Please be patient. As always, I appreciate your family's service to our Corps and great nation and I look forward to seeing you reunited with your Purple Fox soon.



**Honor, Courage,
and Commitment
for our Family.**

Sincerely,
Lieutenant Colonel Michael R. Hudson
Commanding Officer of HMM-364

Purple Fox S-Shops



Administration

The Iraqi summer is here and with it followed plenty of work to keep SSgt Ellis, Sgt Jazan and Cpl Quiroga busy. The S-1 continued to actively manage all administrative issues of pay, leave, promotions, orders, awards and personnel management. Specifically, SSgt Ellis has been ensuring squadron personnel received their Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Iraqi Campaign and/or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medals. SSgt Ellis has identified which Marines rate each award and then supervised the entry of the award(s) into each Marines Service Record Book. Sgt Jazan continues the squadron's reach-back operations by communicating with MAG-39 CPAC nightly in order to ensure the Purple Foxes records and pay are accurate. Cpl Quiroga continues to solve day to day admin problems and he is presently mentoring under Sgt Jazan to become the S-1 NCOIC. Combined, these three Purple Foxes have successfully managed the squadron's records and to date have not had a discrepancy. 1stLt Vuolo and Capt Clifton continue to fly daily combat missions and lend a helping hand with awards, fitness reports and the squadron's command chronology. In conclusion, we want to thank our spouses and families for their continued support and we look forward to seeing them soon.

Intelligence

Led by Capt Closs, the Purple Fox Intelligence Section has found a new and improved home here at Camp TQ. The old Flight Line Intelligence Center just was not big enough for our needs so, we moved into a different building with more space and a better power grid. The Purple Fox S-2 continues to share space with the Marines of HMLA 775 and with our new home I am confident that we will continue to provide the best intelligence possible to both the Foxes and Coyotes. As for the Marines, Sergeant Boyer continues to lead by example with solid intelligence work and briefing skills. Corporal Scales spends his days watching the enemies movements and his ideas and suggestions have undoubtedly saved lives. Lance Corporal Naughton's valuable combat experience from his past two deployments to this theatre of operations continue to contribute to the Purple Foxes' intelligence effort by adding insight to the enemies historical tactics. As you can see, we are hard at work here, but we miss you all and will be checking up on you from time to time as only Marines in the Intelligence field can.

Logistics

The month of May brought many new projects and challenges to the logistics shop. The Army Air Ambulance squadron moved to town to help us with the CASEVAC mission. In response to the Army's arrival, the S-4 shop selflessly took ownership of their logistical support by arranging construction of work spaces, living spaces, and acquiring furniture.

The S-4 shop has also been busy improving the quality of life for the squadron. Staying on top of air conditioning repairs, constructing new crew rest tents, arranging for more of a variety to be brought in for meals, and having living spaces sprayed with pesticide are just a few of the tasks accomplished.

In addition to dealing with daily logistical issues, the S-4 has been looking ahead to the squadron retrograde. Although it is several months away, the shop has been making preparations for the embarkation of squadron gear and personnel.

Safety

As the June sun rises, the Purple Foxes enter the waning period of this OIF deployment. To date, HMM-364 has demonstrated calm, professionalism and safety in all aspects of its operations. The new challenge is preventing the negative effects of complacency from setting in. Everyone from the Commanding Officer down to the NCOs has addressed complacency with their Marines—no one will let their guard down until we are all back home safe in SoCal. The Safety shop's other major concerns are heat related injuries and fatigue. 364's Logistics department has done an outstanding job ensuring the generators, and subsequently, the air conditioning, on line. The air conditioning has been keeping the living (sleeping) and working spaces under 85 degrees, which allows everyone a refreshing break from the heat. Additionally, Marines are provided 15 minutes of rest per 45 minutes of continuous work on the flight line when temperatures exceed approximately 100 degrees. Maj Zadrozny, Capts Marvel, Peché and Jennings and Corporal Zink are continuing to set a safe example while flying high hours. The shop continues to equally man both day and night shifts, thereby ensuring safe operations around the clock. Congrats go out to Rob Jennings as he was recently promoted to Captain.



Purple Fox S-Shops



Recreation and Morale

Greetings once again to everyone back home from Camp Al-Taqaddum, Iraq. The S-5 has been busy over the past 30 days and has several projects in the works for the remainder of the deployment. The cruise book continues to the highest priority and it is starting to take shape thanks to the photographic talents and subsequent submission of digital photos from different Marines throughout the squadron. Each department will be represented and will consist of both group and individual pictures. Everyone is looking forward to the opportunity to share our experiences and memories of the deployment with our family and friends.

Additionally, an article was written about Purple Fox Casualty Evacuation operations. It can also be found on www.usmc.mil. This article shares the views and thoughts on what it is like flying this righteous mission. Look for more articles in the months ahead as your Marines/sailors continue their great work.

The flag program continues to be popular and we encourage all friends of the "Purple Foxes" to send us their flags. Due to transit time, we are recommending that all flags be mailed by August 1st so that the flag(s) will reach us in Iraq before we turn over the mission and return home. For those of you wishing to fly your flag on the flagpole, it must be at least 3 x 5 feet in size with embroidered stars and made of decent material. Additionally, the flag must not have any pictures on it. Flags that not meet the guidelines, will be flown in the aircraft on a mission.. The certificate you receive along with your flag will reflect whether it was flown on the flag pole or in the aircraft. Additionally, the base post office has identified that this endeavor is not of an official nature and therefore does not qualify for government handling. As a result, the squadron is required to pay the shipping cost. Unfortunately, the flag program has been so successful that the squadron can not meet the cost associated and therefore we are requesting that all flags be accompanied with ten dollars for postage of your flag's return trip. If you have already sent a flag don't worry. You can either send us the postage now or we will bring the flags back with us to Camp Pendleton and mail them upon our return.

Finally, the S-5 held it's first monthly barbecue supported by the chow hall and it was a huge success. The barbecue overlapped during the day/night shift change so both

crews could enjoy the food and camaraderie. In conclusion, we would just like to say hello and thanks to all of our supporters back home. We miss you all and are counting the days until we see you again.



Operations

The Operations department just wouldn't run as smoothly if it weren't for our Assistant Operations Officer, Capt G. Ryan deMik. "Irish," as he is known to the other pilots, grew up on Navy bases all over the world. He graduated the U.S. Naval Academy in 1997 and received his wings of gold in February 2000. Capt deMik started his Fleet career in HMM-262 and has deployed three times, to include a stint on the 31st MEU and two OIF tours. He attended Weapons & Tactics Instructor School (the Top Gun of the helicopter world) in the spring of 2004.

Capt deMik became the squadron's Assistant Operations Officer in October 2004. Since that time, he has helped plan a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation detachment to El Centro in November, the squadron's movement to Yuma, AZ for Operation Desert Talon in December. Here in Iraq, Capt deMik directs the daily operations and communication within the department. He works with the clerks and schedule writers to ensure that we have the right number and type of people to fulfill every assigned mission. He also has one of the highest numbers of combat flight hours among the pilots for this deployment – fourth in the squadron!

But Capt deMik isn't all business all the time. His favorite ways to kick back are watching video mail from home, lifting weights in the gym, and playing shoot-em-up video games on his computer. Once he gets home, Capt deMik plans on spending some quality time with his beautiful wife and kids.

The rest of the Operations department continues to do well. Led by Major Griffiths, ops fills it's day by planning for not only tomorrow's missions, but for the squadron's life cycle as a whole. Capts Mackin and Harris continue to steer the course along with 1stLt Sebastian, Sgt Gordan, Cpl Foster and PFC Larson.

Medical

The Purple Foxes' medical shop has been busy.

HM1 Hessong pulled an extreme home make-over project and constructed a new patient reception area. HM2 Garrett and HM3 Peebles completely revamped our supply stock and patient exam area. All have made the clinic as a whole much more appealing and inviting. Everyone has really pulled together as a team in an effort to provide the best possible medical support for our warriors.

It seems like just yesterday that we were working hard to prepare all the Marines for deployment. Soon we will be tackling the work required to be completed before Marines return to the states. Golly! Where did the time go? We still have rising temperatures to contend with, so when you folks at home talk to your Marine, remind them to drink plenty of water along with eating three squares a day. See you soon.





Maintenance

The month of May is behind us now and as we recount it's days here in the Maintenance Department, a sense of pride swells because the Marines have continued to accomplish phenomenal tasks. Working around the clock, the Purple Foxes continued to maintain the safest, most reliable, and mission ready "Battle Phrogs" in theatre.

Flight Line continues its mischievous ways as they have pioneered their own deployment T-shirts which are soon to be the envy of all the other shops. Additionally, the video game hub and movie house within their shop has begun to rival the Air Frames porch as a cultural center for the squadron. Congratulations go out to SSgt Freeman, Cpl McClintock and LCpl Lugo who were all recently promoted.

Airframes continues to house the main barber shop for the Squadron and our music epicenter. There is never a shortage of activity on their porch. In addition to providing entertainment, the Marines have done an outstanding job maintaining the many hydraulic systems within the Phrogs. As the temperatures go up in this dusty environment, these helos become more maintenance intensive and the Air Framers have definitely done their part this month in keeping birds ready. Congratulations are in order for Sgt Habibullah, Sgt Reynolds and LCpl Johns who were recently promoted.

While Avionics has finally received a brake from the fast paced, high maintenance workload of the past months, their job continues among the most important because they are responsible for all of the communication, navigation and air survivability equipment. The aircraft have been cooperating, and the Marines have definitely earned the reduced workload. Congratulations for promotion in the Avionics shop go out to PFC Romero

Maintenance Control continues to be the central nervous system (they call it the "brains" but we know otherwise) of our department. They definitely earned their paychecks during the month of May as they had to intricately plan each days utilization of our Aircraft. We continue to fly over 500 hours a month and they shoving the Phrogs through their Phase inspection at the rapid rate. As the deployment continues, their daily strategy will be a key to our success.

In conclusion, the summer is here and the temperatures have started to increase. However, the Maintenance Marines work ethic and professionalism has suffered no ill effects. We could not have a better group and while we continue to be dedicated to the mission, we are all looking forward to seeing our families and friends soon.



Air Frame's LCpl Johns and the Hutch celebrate in style during a sand bag party.



The Marines of the Flight Line are working hard at installing a new Rotor Head

CasEvac Corpsman

The month of May marked a period of achievement and superior qualification for the Corpsmen of the II MEF CASEVAC Team. Following the flawless integration of the Army MEDEVAC Squadron the Corpsmen were allowed some free time for their professional development. During this period the CASEVAC Team boasts 12 promotions and 2 Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist (EFMWFS) Qualifications. The EFMWFS qualification marks a Sailors arrival to the Fleet Marine Force and indicates their expertise in Marine Corps history, Land Navigation, NBC, and Air Combat Fundamentals to name just a few of the categories.

During their arduous training to prepare for the CASEVAC mission the Sailors were still burdened with duties of advancement. Each Sailor studied religiously to advance to their next pay through testing. The following Sailors were successful in their mission: Promoted to Petty Officer First Class:

HM2 James V. Johnson

Promoted to Petty Officer Second Class:

HM3 Jeremy Moore

HM3 Guy T. Ambrose

HM3 Herbert Mangalindan

Promoted to Petty Officer Third Class:

HN Ewing J. James

HN Denys E. Martin

HN Filpe Martinez

HN David S. Michael

HN Jason M. Morrison

HN Aaron D. Smith

HN Christopher Yesukevich

HN Miguel A. Burgos

Congratulations to those sailors who advanced and good luck to all the rest on their next advancement test.



Avionics doing what they do best. Fixing the mighty Battle Phrog.

Purple Fox Family Readiness



Key Volunteer Coordinators



Ladies,

We have several events coming up in the month of June. We will be having a family day June 25th so start making plans to be there. It promises to be filled with food and fun for the whole family. As if that was not enough, we also have Purple Fox Spouse's Night Out on the third Saturday of every month. Call us for details and get a baby sitter so we can go have fun. Additionally, we only have a few of the official Purple Fox Deployment T-shirts remaining, whose proceeds will go to the Enlisted Ball fund. It will be available at all of our events, but hurry up and contact us because they are selling out fast. For more details or if you have a question call your Key Volunteer. We are here for you.

Your Key Volunteer Coordinators,

From the Family Readiness Officer

Purple Fox Families,

The Family Day is coming up and it sounds like a lot of fun things have been planned for you and your family. Even though I will not be able to join you there, I sincerely hope that the Saturday afternoon Camp Pendleton's Peninsula will be a memorable one.

I would also like to encourage you to stay connected to the Key Volunteer Network by keeping your Key Volunteer aware of your current address and phone number so that they can get in touch with you and pass important information about us and the upcoming events. In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for your support. All of us are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Captain Brian N. Clifton



Events

June 25th - Family Day

Camp Pendleton Peninsula

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

July 16th - Spouses Night Out

Base Bowling Center

Call your Key Volunteer for more details.



Staying in Touch

KV Network: The KV Network is a group of dedicated military spouses that organize a phone and e-mail roster that links the Squadron Commanding Officer, LtCol Hudson, with the families of the Purple Foxes. These Key Volunteers have completed Camp Pendleton specific training taught by Marine Corps Family Team Building and they stand ready to help. So if you are a spouse and you have a question about services aboard Camp Pendleton or the Purple Foxes, call your Key Volunteer. They are waiting for you.



Official Web Site: The official Website for HMM-364 can be found at www.3maw.usmc.mil. From there move your mouse to Family Readiness and then to MAG 39. Now you should see HMM-364 listed. Click on it and you are there. The website will contain upcoming events, announcements, pictures, biographies, the latest version of this newsletter and contact information for this squadron.

Dictaphone: If you want to hear a weekly recorded message from the Purple Fox of the week call 1(877)616-8762.

Pace America: A internet and phone message system that allows us to record a message with information about the Purple Foxes and send it to your phone.

Regular Mail: Send it because it only takes a week to get to us. Our address is:

**Name of Your Marine
HMM-364 / Work Center
UIC 42015
FPO AP 96426-2015**



May / June 2005



Promotions and Awards



May Awards:

Captain Bill Snowman received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his outstanding work while serving as a Battalion Forward Air Controller for Regimental Combat Team 7 (RCT-7) during OIF-II.

Sgt Rodrick Coleman received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his hard work and diligence in the Maintenance Administration Section of HMM-364.

Cpl Ernest Scales received a Certificate of Commendation.

Cpl William Odom received a Certificate of Commendation.

Birthdays

May

June



Promotions:

On the first of May the following Marines were promoted to their present rank.

SSgt Michael M. Freeman
Sgt Joseph D. Reynolds
Cpl Darek A. Gorenflo
LCpl Garry J. Kinney
PFC Amanda G. Larson
PFC Michael T. Johns

On the first of June the following Marines were promoted to their present rank.

Capt Robert M. Jennings
SSgt Darin A. Fliear
Sgt Abdool W. Habibullah
Cpl Joshua L. McClintock (Meritorious)
LCpl Michael T. Johns (Meritorious)
LCpl Edgar M. Lugo
PFC Ulises D. Romero



Purple Fox Pictures



Chess on the Air Frames Porch.



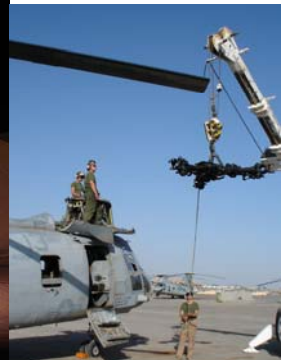
Above: (Left to Right) LCpl Baro, Sgt Sandoval, Sgt Asakevich and SSgt Freeman.
Below: Not Mount Suribachi, but its symbolism carries on, even after a hard night of filling sand bags.



A happy 1stLt Sebastian



Flight Line Changing a Rotor head.



Above: Captain John Diumentti does his best "Finding Nemo" impression.



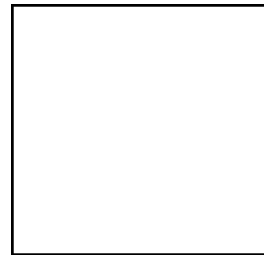
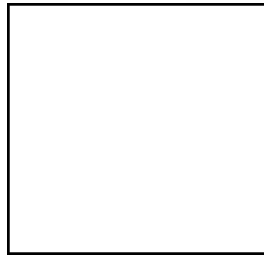
Above: Quick Draw SSgt Kurek
Left: Cpl Steve Daniels
Right: Cpl Bowman pleads to get back in the air.



The Fox Den: Coloring page for Little Swifty's



Design a few
new patches
for the Foxes.



The Eagle, Globe and Anchor



Your Symbol

The Eagle, Globe and Anchor is the symbol of the Marine Corps. The Eagle represents the United States of America. The Globe represents world wide service and the Anchor represents naval traditions

Make up and draw a Symbol for your Family

MAP



Color the Phrog and then draw a map
so the Pilots can find there way.

